



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

**DDS**

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Commissioner

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**DDS Public and Private Providers Excel during Blizzard**

Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D., Commissioner

Now that most communities are in the final phases of recovery from our history making blizzard, I want to thank the thousands of staff who support individuals served by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

Largely invisible to the public, DDS employees and contractors are the backbone that supports thousands of people with intellectual disability throughout Connecticut, in many cases 24 hours a day, seven days a week and sometimes under the most extreme conditions. More than 20,000 public and private sector staff work with persons with intellectual disability in over 900 settings including group homes and other facilities.

The blizzard presented some enormous challenges to staff who were working, some needing to work multiple shifts until they were relieved. Many of the people they support needed assistance preparing meals, receiving medications, and getting reassurance from a friend that everything was going to be ok.

Thousands of staff, who, like so many of us, were barricaded in their own driveways and streets by the snow, didn't accept their plight as being "snowed in". They had responsibilities to the people they have built strong relationships with, to get to them and to be there for them. I have heard countless stories exemplifying the significant courage of staff that left their families and in some cases put their own well being in danger, and made extraordinary efforts, sometimes walking miles in hazardous conditions, to get to work.

The work force that I am recognizing is replicated in many other areas including hospitals, nursing facilities and child care facilities to name a few. These staff are a part of the fabric of their communities and they are people whose work has an enormous impact on the quality of life of countless citizens of Connecticut. They all make extraordinary commitments to those they support and we appreciate their dedication.